I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: Minupen Malale

DATE:

**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re:

Patent Application of

Ekkehardt Schäfer et al.

Appln. No.:

09/415,285

Filed:

October 8, 1999

For:

**FOOD CASING** 

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Group Art Unit 1761

Attorney Docket

No. 8934-47U1

(17903)

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

It is requested that the enclosed references listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Patent Examiner in connection with the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

The enclosed references are cited in a German Search Report dated August 4, 1999 (copy enclosed) in counterpart German Application 198 46 3057. DE 41 41 924 AI and DE 41 23 745 A1 are cited as category X (publications which alone place the novelty or inventive level in question) with respect to claims 1-7. The remaining references are cited as category Y (publications which together with other publications place the inventive level in question) with respect to various claims.

Independent consideration and acknowledgment of the enclosed references are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

EKKHARDT SCHÄFER et al.

January 5,2000

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WWS/nm Enclosures

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